

***Congressman
J. Randy Forbes
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Forbes votes to ban Partial-Birth Abortions

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Randy Forbes (VA-04) joined his House colleagues today in passing the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. House and Senate Members produced this final report after conferring for the past few months. The passage of this conference report is the final hurdle in the bill being signed into law by the President.

"As a co-sponsor of this bill, I am committed to protecting our innocent, unborn children by banning the partial-birth abortion procedure," Forbes said.

The partial-birth abortion procedure requires delivering a child's body until only the head remains inside the womb. The back of the child's head is then punctured, and the brain removed with a vacuum.

Speaking on the House Floor today during the bill's debate, Forbes emphasized, "This bill is not about 'choice', and this bill is not really about abortion. This bill, substantively when you look at it, is about one procedure - one procedure - that is so painful to an unborn baby, so barbaric, so egregious that even the most extreme proponent of abortion has to look at it and say it shocks even their conscience."

He continued, "Partial-birth abortion is never medically necessary. Partial birth abortion is not a rare procedure. It happens all the time, and it is not limited to mothers or babies who are in danger. It is performed on healthy women and healthy babies."

"As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, my colleagues and I have been working hard to ban this ghastly procedure. This procedure is infanticide and its cruelty stretches the limits of human decency," Forbes later commented.

The Senate is expected to vote on this bill in mid-October. Earlier this year, President Bush expressed in his State of the Union address the importance of Congress passing a ban on partial-birth abortions.

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